

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-21 are presently active in this case. Claims 1, 7, 8, 13, and 14 having been amended and Claims 19-21 added by way of the present Amendment.

In the Office Action dated October 2, 2003, Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, and Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Hauser et al.

In response to the October 2, 2003 Official Action, the Applicant has now filed RCE papers and the present amendment.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1-18 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, the Applicant notes that Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to recite that the controller is “operatively connected to the first and second storage areas.” The Applicant submits that this amendment provides a cooperative relationship between these elements, and thus the Applicant requests the withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejection.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1-18 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Hauser et al., Claims 1, 8, and 14 have been amended to further define the pending claims over the teachings of Hauer et al. Claims 1 and 8 describe that when a first queue and a second queue connect, a controller stores: (i) a tail address of the first queue in a tail element of second elements included in the second queue; and (ii) a head address of the second queue in a tail element of first elements included in the first queue. Claim 14 describes a queue control method of connecting a first queue and a second queue, wherein: (i) a head address of a second queue is set in a tail element of a first queue; (ii) a tail address of the first queue is set in a tail element of the second queue; (iii) first pointer information indicating a head

address of the first queue is stored in a storage area; and (iv) second pointer information indicating a tail address of the second queue is stored in the storage area. Thus, Claims 1, 8 and 14 define plural queues that are connected and controlled as a single queue, thereby preventing the storage capacity from increasing. The Applicant respectfully submits that the inventions recited in Claims 1, 8, and 14 are distinguishable over the invention of Hauer et al.

The Official Action indicates that it is clear from Figure 6 of Hauser et al. that a tail address of a first queue is stored in a tail element of a second queue, and that a head address of a second queue is stored in a tail element of a first queue. However, Figure 6 of Hauser et al. depicts queues 1, 2, and 3 as being independent from one another. Furthermore, the Hauer et al. reference does not suggest connecting the queues 1, 2, and 3. For example, in the case of "QUEUE 1 DESCRIPTOR" of Figure 6, "HEAD" indicates "CELL NUMBER 11," and "TAIL" indicates "CELL NUMBER 14." Furthermore, column 13, line 49, through column 17, line 42, of Hauer et al. does not clearly describe connecting a plurality of queues. Hence, Hauser et al. does not disclose or even suggest all of the limitations recited in Claims 1, 8 and 14 of the present application.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of Claims 1, 8, and 14.

Claims 2-7, 9-13, and 15-18 are considered allowable for the reasons advanced for Claims 1, 8, and 14 from which they depend. These claims are further considered allowable as they recite other features of the invention that are neither disclosed, taught, nor suggested by the applied references when those features are considered within the context of Claims 1, 8, and 14.

Newly added Claims 19-21 are considered allowable as they recite features of the invention that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the references of record. New Claims

19-21 describe separating a plurality of connected queues. Such a structure and method is also not anticipated by Hauser et al.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above comments, it is respectfully submitted that each ground of rejection has been overcome and that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

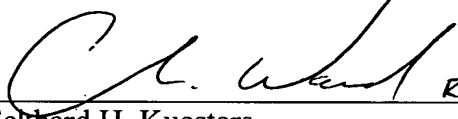
Respectfully submitted,



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